

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is noted below.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a playback signal, said apparatus comprising:

playback means operable for reproducing information recorded on a rotatable recording medium, said recorded information representing audio programs, character information associated with said programs[,] and also including one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail);

character-information detecting means for detecting said character information recorded in an area of said recording medium and reproduced by said playback means; and

~~character-string~~ searching means for searching said detected character information for a ~~string of characters representing~~ address information ~~pertaining to~~ representing the one of (i) the URL used to obtain ~~program~~ information associated with said programs and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail);

means for displaying the URL or electronic mail address (email); and

means for communicating with said URL or electronic mail address.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 ~~further comprising~~ wherein the display means displays ~~for displaying said character information on a display and for displaying~~ said address information in a format different from formats of other character information ~~on said display~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said display means displays indicating information indicating whether or not said character information includes said address information ~~on said display~~.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said displayed indicating information is an icon.

01 5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising activating means for activating software associated with said address information.

6. (Currently Amended) A playback-signal processing apparatus comprising:  
storage means for storing information representing audio programs, character information, and also including one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail) reproduced from a rotatable recording medium, said character information being associated with said programs recorded on said recording medium;

search means for searching said character information for ~~a string of characters representing~~ address information ~~pertaining to~~ representing the one of (i) the URL used to obtain program information associated with said programs and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail);  
and

display means for displaying the URL or electronic mail address (email), said character information and indicating information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information ~~on a display~~; and

means for communicating with said URL or electronic mail address.

7. (Previously Presented) A playback-signal processing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said indicating information is an icon.

8. (Previously Presented) A playback-signal processing apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising activating means for activating software associated with said address information.

cl 9. (Previously Presented) A playback-signal processing apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said recording medium comprises a plurality of tracks and said display means displays said indicating information for each of said respective tracks.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for reproducing character information from a rotatable recording medium for recording audio data, said method comprising the steps of:

reproducing information representing audio data, character information, and also including one of (i) a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and (ii) an electronic mail address (e-mail) recorded on said rotatable recording medium, said character information being associated with said audio data;

searching said reproduced character information for ~~a string of characters representing~~ address information ~~pertaining to~~ representing the one of (i) the URL used to obtain further information about said audio data and (ii) the electronic mail address (e-mail); ~~and~~

displaying the URL or electronic mail address (email), said character information and information indicating whether or not said address information is included in said character information; and

communicating with said URL or electronic mail address.

01 11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10 wherein said indicating information is an icon.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10 wherein said address information included in said character information is displayed in a format different from a format of other character information.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10 further comprising a step of activating software when said address information is included in said character information.

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